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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/604,816	08/19/2003	Xiankui Shi		1815

25859 7590 01/12/2004

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EXAMINER

PATEL, TULSIDAS C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

40.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/604,816

Applicant(s)

SHI ET AL.

Examiner

T. C. Patel

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 08192003 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

General Status

1. This is a First Action on the Merits. Claims 1-17 are pending in the case.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-11 and 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Dinkel et al. (US 5,643,009).

For claims 1, 10 and 14, Dinkel et al. in figures 1-11, discloses method of assembling an electrical connector 12 and a cable, the connector including an insulative housing 14, defining a plurality of cavities 16 each adapted to receive a corresponding electrical terminal 70 therein and a latching member 34, the cable including a plurality of wires (not numbered, see figure 9 and 11), the method comprising the steps of extending wires of the cable through channels 34 (figure 11) of the latching member; attaching electrical terminals 70 to the wires of the cable; inserting the terminals into the cavities of the housing; and securing the latching member to the housing for locating the terminals in the cavities.

For claim 2, the latching member comprises a base plate 38, and a plurality of silos 44 extending from the base plate. For claims 3, 4 and 13 the base plate comprises a plurality of

latches 50 and the housing comprises a plurality of blocks 60 provided thereon, the blocks engaging with the latches of the latching member.

For claim 5, each of the silos 44 of the latching member is in alignment with a corresponding cavity of the housing and can be inserted into the cavity when the latching member is secured to the housing (figure 6). For claim 6 the silo comprises a central channel extending therethrough, a diameter of the channel is slightly larger than that of the wire (figure 10).

For claims 7-9, each of the terminals comprises a connecting portion having a plurality of clasps 74 for fastening a corresponding wire conductor and insulating jacket of the cable.

For claim 11, the details of the cavity 16 for the housing are seen in figure 10. For claims 15-17, the details of terminal and its connection to the wire are shown in figures 10 and 11, the cavity of the housing and the latch member are designed such that the terminal is retained within the cavity due to element 78.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dinkel et al. (US 5,643,009) in view of Fry et al. (US 5,595,509).

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As discussed above, Dinkel et al. satisfies all the limitation of claims 10 and 11. However, Dinkel et al. does not disclose terminal having a pair of spring arms. Fry et al. in figure 4, discloses a terminal with a pair of spring arms. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a pair of spring arms on the terminal of Dinkel et al. as taught by Fry et al. so that the terminal can be locked in the cavity of the housing.

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's invention. Mtsushita et al. (US 5,980,331), Wada et al. (US 6,183,314), Ohsumi (US 5,299,958), Ohta et al. (US 5,059,142), McCardell, Jr. (US 5,411,421) and Sugie (US 6,149,462) all disclose terminal locking arrangement for the connectors.

Applicant also should consider these references in response to this office action. Should issue arise concerning the rejection presented above, these references may be relied upon in a subsequent action to support the lack of novelty or obviousness of claimed subject matter to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Change of Address

7. Effective May 1, 2003, the United States Patent and Trademark Office has a new Commissioner for Patents address. Correspondence in patent-related matters to organizations reporting to the Commissioner for Patents must now be addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Hand-delivered of responses should be brought to:

Crystal Plaza-4, Fourth floor (receptionist)
2201 South Clark Place, Arlington, Virginia

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to T. C. Patel whose telephone number is (703) 308-1736 OR (703) 272-2098 (after January 30, 2004). The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on (703) 308-2710 OR (703) 272-2092 (after January 30, 2004). The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.


T. C. Patel
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2839

tcp
January 7, 2004